



The Idea of an Essay

Volume 6 *Dads, The Humanities, and The Electoral College*

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Front Matter

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The Idea of an Essay
Dads, The Humanities, and
The Electoral College

Volume 6

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The Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages

Hello from Cedarville University, and thank you for your interest in the Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages. Our programs produce men and women who communicate effectively and think deeply, cross-culturally, and creatively about the ideas that have shaped and continue to shape our world.

Our mission is to challenge students to go beyond expectations. Henry David Thoreau once wrote that we hit only what we aim at and thus ought to aim at something high. We agree — aim high. Who will write the definitive scholarly treatment of Don DeLillo's work? Who will share Christ by teaching English to migrant workers in west Michigan? Where is this generation's C.S. Lewis or Flannery O'Connor? At Cedarville University, we want our students to aspire to such heights.

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to Cedarville University. We are excited to have you in our composition classes. This anthology is meant to serve as a learning tool, and we will use it together over the course of this semester as we engage in the process of writing.

Cedarville University values writing. Regardless of your major, writing will be an intrinsic part of your education during your years at Cedarville, as it is a primary means of expressing clear, organized, critical thought. Perhaps more importantly, the writing you will do as part of your academic life will serve as practice for the various writing tasks each of you will complete as part of your chosen professions, as well as preparation for the writing you will do in your various communities, interpersonal relationships, and your daily devotions with God.

Cedarville University commits to preparing each of you to be successful writers by requiring a first-year composition course taught by a member of the Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages. As composition instructors, we recognize the excellent writing created in our classes, so we host an annual composition contest for students who completed the course during that year. The anthology you are about to read consists of the winners of that contest for the 2018-2019 academic year.

In the following pages, you will find models of university level writing, as well as examples of how to structure, organize, support, and document various genres of essays written for different purposes and with specific audiences in mind. We do not suggest these essays are perfect, as one of the most exciting aspects of writing is that it is a process that includes revision, so a text can always be improved upon or recreated as something different.

Each essay begins with a short biography of the student who wrote the essay to hopefully illustrate that, although these students are now published authors, they are not much different from you, the reader. You should find this encouraging. If these students can write successfully at the university level, then so can you.

Sincerely,
The Cedarville Composition Instructors

Instructor Biographies

Holly Blakely

Assistant Professor of English

Professor Blakely began teaching college composition in 1999 as a graduate teaching associate in the Wright State University Department of English. After graduating with her M.A., she went on to become the W.S.U. Writing Center's assistant director. Over the years, Professor Blakely has also taught international students in the University of Dayton Intensive English Program and a very diverse student body at Sinclair Community College. Professor Blakely joined the faculty of Cedarville University in 2018. She teaches composition and writing studio courses and currently serves as the Interim Director of Cedarville's Writing Center. Professor Blakely's research interests include the role of cognitive psychology, intercultural rhetoric, and neuroscience in writing pedagogy.

Education and Credentials

- M.A. English Composition and Rhetoric, Wright State University
- B.A. English Technical Writing, Wright State University

Interests

- Spending time in nature with my family
- Reading Russian and British literature
- Studying apologetics and rhetorical considerations in evangelism, personality typology and disorders, Impressionism, and classical ballet

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Daniel Clark

Associate Professor of English

Professor Clark teaches courses in composition, advanced grammar, contemporary world literature, film, and the graphic novel. Along with Dr. Andrew Wiseman, Professor Clark developed Cedarville University's foreign film series. He also serves as cosponsor of Alpha Kappa Delta, Cedarville's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. Before coming to Cedarville, he taught at the University of Maryland Asian Division in Okinawa, Japan. He also taught English as a Second Language (ESL) at the Okinawa Prefectural Language Center. Professor Clark has been at Cedarville since 1999.

Education and Credentials

- M.A. in English, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- B.A. in Secondary Education (with proficiencies in English and Bible), Tennessee Temple University

Interests

- Theology
- Film and contemporary world literature
- Japanese culture
- Comics, comix, graphic novels, manga, and bandes dessinées
- The Atlanta Braves (chop on!)

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Melissa Faulkner

Associate Professor of English

Dr. Faulkner teaches composition, writing studio, visual rhetoric, and history of rhetorical theory and literary criticism. She also serves as the coordinator for Writing Across the Curriculum. Her research interests include memoirs as retention and critical thinking tools, story analysis, and the organic connection between WAC programs and assessment. Dr. Faulkner has received multiple Excellence in Teaching awards, including one from the Southern Ohio Council of Higher Education. Dr. Faulkner has been at Cedarville University since 2007.

Education and Credentials

- Ph.D. in Composition & Rhetoric, Miami University of Ohio
- M.A. in English, Wright State University
- B.A. in English & Political Science, Wright State University

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Andy Graff

Assistant Professor of English

Professor Graff joined the faculty of the Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages in 2015. Andy's short fiction has appeared in *Stolen Island* and National Public Radio's *Three Minute Fiction*. Andy teaches introductory and advanced creative writing workshops, poetry, introduction to literature, composition, and a special topics course leading to the annual publication of *The Cedarville Review*.

Education and Credentials

- M.F.A. in Creative Writing with emphasis in Fiction, University of Iowa
- B.A. in English Literature, Lawrence University

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Merideth Hoagland

Assistant Professor of Linguistics

Dr. Hoagland teaches courses in linguistics, language teaching methods, and composition at Cedarville University. Her doctoral research took her to western China, where she explored English language instruction in a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual context. Her background comprises more than 10 years of classroom experience among diverse ESL/EFL populations. She joined the Cedarville University faculty in 2017.

Education and Credentials

- Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics, Georgia State University
- M.A. in Applied Linguistics, Georgia State University
- M.A. in English, Bob Jones University
- B.A. in English, Bob Jones University

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Cyndi Messer

Associate Professor of English

Professor Messer taught several years in secondary education before joining the faculty at Cedarville University in 1998. She teaches composition and literature courses as well as methods courses for future English teachers. She currently serves as the program coordinator for the Adolescent and Young Adult Language Arts (AYALA) majors and is a key contact for questions concerning the English education program. She also serves as faculty advisor for *The Miracle*, Cedarville University's yearbook.

Education and Credentials

- M.A. in English, Wright State University
- B.A. in English Education, Cedarville College

Interests

- Favorite Places Visited: Paris, Puerto Vallarta, and San Francisco
- Hobbies: playing board games with family, exercising, reading, playing piano, gathering family and friends around a bonfire
- Favorite Authors: C.S. Lewis, Amy Tan, Thomas Hardy, John Steinbeck, Marilynne Robinson, Erik Lawson, and Shakespeare

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Michelle Wood

Associate Professor of English

Dr. Wood has been at Cedarville University since 1995. Before coming to Cedarville, she taught English in Beijing, China. She has presented papers at national conferences, including the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the National Council of Teachers of English, the College English Association, and the Society for the Study of American Women Writers, speaking on topics such as Multigenre writing, Catharine Maria Sedgwick, Margaret Fuller, Alice Cary, and Amy Tan. Dr. Wood is a member of the Society for the Study of American Woman Writers and the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society.

Education and Credentials

- Ph.D. in Literature and Criticism, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- M.A. in Composition and Rhetoric, Wright State University
- B.A. in English Education and Speech Education, Cedarville College

Interests

- Travel
- Biking
- Archival research of women's life-writing
- College football

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